

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A conversation processing apparatus and method determines whether to change the topic. If the determination is affirmative, the degree of association between a present topic being discussed and a candidate topic stored in a memory is computed with reference to a degree of association table. Based on the computation result, a topic with the highest degree of association is selected as a subsequent topic. The topic is changed from the present topic to the subsequent topic. The degree of association table used to select the subsequent topic is updated.

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